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**In an effort to provide the research community with new information related to clinical research at UAMS, we have developed a brief monthly newsletter designed to highlight:**

- New federal policies, regulations or guidance documents
- New or revised institutional policies
- New initiatives to improve clinical research administration
- New facilities or programs
- Educational opportunities
- Other news pertinent to clinical research

If you are interested in a particular topic, please click on the link to locate more detailed information.

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### **CLINICAL RESEARCH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CRIMSON)**

The first phase of the project to develop and implement a Clinical Research Information Management System is nearing completion. Beginning on **July 16, 2007**, all new biomedical and behavioral research protocols that originate from UAMS faculty and students and will be conducted in full or in part on the UAMS campus will be submitted through the new ARIA CRIMSON module. Note that this new system does not change the way that the following protocols are managed:

- Protocols that do not involve human subjects
- Clinical research projects submitted through and conducted entirely at ACHRI, CAVHS, AHECs, the Department of Health even if those projects use the UAMS IRB
- Existing protocols that have already been through the IRB review process

The new system will initially allow for:

- Electronic submission and approval of clinical research budgets
- Coverage reviews when appropriate
- Accurate assignment of research and clinical charges to appropriate accounts
- Integration with the ARIA IRB module
- Electronic routing and signoff

For more information: <http://www.uams.edu/rsc/CRIMSON.htm> For questions, contact Julia Washam [washamjuliak@uams.edu](mailto:washamjuliak@uams.edu) , or 686-8572, or Tom Wells [wellsthomasq@uams.edu](mailto:wellsthomasq@uams.edu) Let us know if you would like a demonstration of the system. We expect questions and will be available to help with submissions.

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### **A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH COMPLIANCE**

Compliance with regulations and institutional policies is a responsibility we all share. In the research context, the recently restructured Office of Research Compliance (ORC) should be viewed as a helpful resource -- one that is able to help you achieve your compliance goals rather than one trying to catch you doing something wrong.

ORC's goal is to help researchers and administrators improve the human research protections program at UAMS. To this end, ORC participates in education programs, offers guidance to committees, and reviews and audits studies and committee processes. While the terms "audit" and "compliance" are often thought of in a negative context, the new ORC hopes to change that perception. ORC would like to try to make sure compliance isn't thought of as a four-letter word.

While it may be hard to believe, some PIs actually express appreciation after being audited. The PI and study team may have learned about UAMS Policy requirements they didn't previously know, or they may have been given suggestions on ways to better document a key component of their research. Based on feedback from PIs, ORC has made, and continues to make, changes to its own templates and processes. Each audit should be viewed as a learning opportunity for both sides.

But you don't have to wait for an audit or review to get input from us. We are available via phone or email to answer questions concerning research compliance. We can also visit you and your staff at your site for more in-depth consultations.

The ORC director is Jennifer Sharp. Karen Barnwell, Amanda Goad, Jennifer O'Brien and Edith Paal comprise the rest of the office. ORC reports to the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Compliance, Bob Bishop. If you'd like to know more about ORC, what to expect from an audit/QC review or would like a research topic presented to your group, feel free to contact Jennifer at [SharpJenniferR@uams.edu](mailto:SharpJenniferR@uams.edu) or 501-686-8062.

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We invite your input. Please e-mail any items that you would like to share with the Clinical Research community to: [doanleslie@uams.edu](mailto:doanleslie@uams.edu)